

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 29, 1992

Published Since 1877

BSSB workers spur Russian Sunday School curriculum where dreaded KGB once searched for Christian teacher

By Chip Alford

DOMODEDOVA, Russia (BP) — It's been less than three years since Ljudmila Genrich was dodging the KGB, trying to tell children in her native Siberia about the love of Jesus.

Unable to teach religion openly under communist rule, the Russian Baptist woman had to be both secretive and imaginative in sharing her faith. Her strategy? Plan birthday parties.

Whenever a local child had a birthday, she would throw a party in the child's home, invite children from the neighborhood, and use the opportunity to talk about Jesus. Though the KGB soon caught on and continued to follow her, she was never arrested.

With the demise of communism

and the collapse of the Soviet empire, Ljudmila is now free to share her faith and is even writing Sunday School lessons for children. Earlier this month, she attended the second in a series of Sunday School curriculum development workshops led by workers from the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The workshop, held March 29 to April 3 at the Elochki Retreat Center in Domodedova, Russia (near Moscow), drew more than a dozen Baptist church leaders from Russia, Ukraine, and Latvia, all republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"Our purpose was to help Baptists in the former Soviet republics develop Sunday School materials that will meet the needs of their churches," said Mavis Allen, senior program development coordinator for the BSSB's church growth-Sunday School division and one of the six workshop leaders.

Other board employees making the trip were Mike Fink, adult curriculum manager; Judith Woolridge, senior youth curriculum design editor; Marilyn Redding, children's curriculum editor; David Nelms, preschool curriculum editor; and Forrest Moorehead, retired curriculum development coordinator.

The series of workshops are the brainchild of Sergei Sannikov, president of Odessa Baptist Seminary and Bible School in Ukraine. While the first meeting (held in November 1992 near Kiev, Ukraine) was financed by the

BSSB, most of the expenses for the recent meeting were paid for with Foreign Mission Board funds set aside for initiatives in the region, Allen said, adding several FMB missionaries in Russia assisted with the project.

"Sergei's dream is to provide Sunday school literature for all Baptist churches in the former Soviet Union," Allen said. "He submitted to Dr. (Harry) Piland (director of the BSSB's church growth-Sunday School division) a proposal for a series of workshops on how to do Sunday School work and develop and write curriculum and then asked for our help."

Participants in the first workshop were given an assignment to write a unit of Sunday School lessons for a particular age group and bring it to the second meeting, Allen said.

"We set aside time to evaluate those lessons as a part of the workshop and all our team was impressed. The writers had done remarkable work," she said.

In addition to evaluating lessons, the BSSB workers led sessions on how to develop and write curriculum for different age groups and gave general lectures on teaching methodologies and the life of Christ.

Workshop leaders also had time to attend either worship services or Sunday School at Central Baptist Church in Moscow.

"The idea of an all age-group Sunday School is a new idea in Russia," Nelms said. Classes are offered for children and preschoolers on Sunday morning. Both

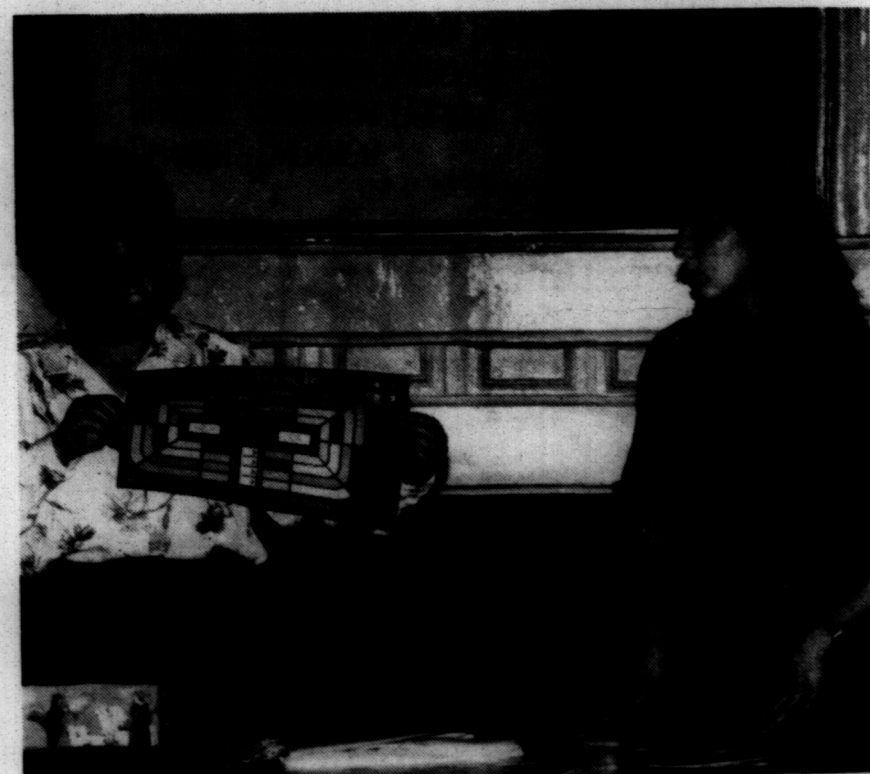
youth and adults participate in the two-hour worship service, making it difficult to schedule Bible study on Sunday morning.

But according to Allen, some churches are recognizing the need for adult and youth study groups and are scheduling them during the week.

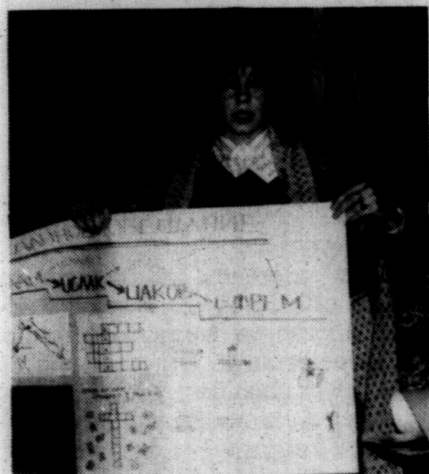
While the seminary in Odessa does publish basic lesson outlines

which can be used by Sunday School teachers, there is no fully developed Sunday School curriculum, Allen said, adding Sannikov has requested the BSSB to provide leadership for two more curriculum development seminars in the next year. The request will be considered by Piland and Foreign Mission Board officials, she said.

Alford writes for BSSB.



WORK AND PLAY — Marilyn Redding (left), a curriculum editor for the Baptist Sunday School Board, explains a Bible Study game while leading a session on child instruction at the curriculum development workshop. Her translator is Anna Betina (right), a University of Moscow student. (BP photo by Mavis Allen)



BIBLE IDEA — Dressed as the biblical character Jacob, Tabita Runce of Latvia shares ideas of how to teach a Bible lesson to children at the curriculum development workshop near Moscow. (BP photo by Mavis Allen)

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Where to go

Self-help
Adult Children of Alcoholics
P.O. Box 3216
Torrance, CA 90510

Alanon and Alateen
P.O. Box 862
New York, NY 10018-0862

Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. Box 459
New York, NY 10163

Women for Sobriety
P.O. Box 618
Quakertown, PA 18951

Children of Alcoholics
Children of Alcoholics Foundation
555 Madison Ave., 4th Floor
New York, NY 10022

National Association for
Children of Alcoholics
11426 Rockville Pike, Suite 100
Rockville, MD 20852

Education/Info/Prevention
Alcohol and Drug Problems
Association of North America
1555 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22209

National Council on Alcoholism
and Drug Dependence
12 West 21st St., 8th Floor
New York, NY 10010

Impaired Driving
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
511 Carpenter Freeway, Suite 700
Irving, TX 75062-8187

National Coalition to
Prevent Impaired Driving
1730 Rhode Island Ave NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

National Safety Council
444 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611

Remove Intoxicated Drivers
P.O. Box 520
Schenectady, NY 12301

Source: National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



A national day of repentance

The story is not so much irreverent as it is sticky. The preacher decided to paint the church building. He was decidedly short of paint and watered it down so much that the first rain washed it off. "Repaint and thin no more" reportedly was the admonition of the membership.

In the original, the admonition is "repent and sin no more," and much more than paint is at stake. The king of Nineveh could give us a lesson in national repentance. Sodom and Gomorrah add a bleak testimony. Where sin is treated lightly, repentance is often omitted. Why repent of a psychological error, or a sociological maladjustment? Where repentance is treated with indifference, conversion is seen as unnecessary.

Man is slowly lifting himself by his own measures in his own eyes and will soon be on an equality with Deity. Repentance and faith become merely out-moded biblical words.

There is even governmental ablu- tion and approval of the national sin of abortion. The voiceless

protests of 30 million unborn babies in the past 20 years remain unheard. Is the voice of repentance heard? The Sodoms and Gomor- rohs being created with homosexu- al building blocks, striving so hard for respectability and approval, see no sin, attempt no repentance. Our tower of Babel rises higher as the nation seeks to escape from the name of Jehovah and "make a name for ourselves." Pride and cor- ruption always take its toll, but our God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

Chuck Colson of Watergate fame, and founder of Prison Fellowship, cites statistics to show that the United States prison population has exploded in 20 years, making America the nation with the highest ratio of inmates to citizens in the world.

During a period when Americans have spent \$37 billion to build new prisons, violent crime has increased 75%, said Colson. He favors an overhaul of the whole criminal justice system, declaring "if we are going to solve crime, we need a moral response that deals with our

nation's crumbling moral consen- sus. We've got to teach the differ- ence between right and wrong."

National repentance is needed and individual repentance is still necessary. Repentance has to do with a sincere renunciation of sin that results in conduct being altered, according to the will of God. It is a "turn around," a genu- ine alteration of one's lifestyle. Nations, churches, and individuals need this change. Nineveh's wealth, culture, and lifestyle did not impress the Lord; sackcloth and ashes did.

Somewhere in the day of repen- tance we have to consider our criti- cism of others. (This will be a spe- cially hard day for editors). Gossip, slander, and false accusations can root up, tear down, and leave destruction in their collective wake. When that day comes, we will kneel beside Isaiah and say, "I am unclean and dwell in the midst of an unclean generation." The closer you draw to the Lord, the more you will feel the need of repentance. Where does this leave our nation today?

"AT EIGHTY-ONE, MICHELANGELO PAINTED ST. PETER'S IN ROME. AT 81, FRANKLIN WORKED WITH WASHINGTON ON THE CONSTITUTION. AT 81, I'VE BEEN TO THE MAILBOX AND WATCHED 'THE PRICE IS RIGHT'!"



Observe Senior Adult Day, Sunday, May 2

Reading more, giving more?

National Eldercare Campaign helps meet needs of older sector

You may know that an estimated one in four congregation members is age 60 or over. But do you also know that by the year 2030, that figure will be true not only of con- gregations, but of society as a whole? Are you prepared for that day?

If you're like many clergy mem- bers, you may not be. A lack of training in gerontological issues reinforces the trend of budgeting for youth programs instead of senior adult programs.

The situation needn't be "either/or" but "both/and" when it comes to serving the needs of young and old. With the coming boom among the elderly popula- tion, programs for older people will become increasingly important. An excellent way to start the process is by participating in the National Eldercare Campaign. Initiated in 1991, the campaign is the U.S. Administration on Aging's response to this country's changing demographics.

Traditionally thought of as a youthful society, the U.S. popula- tion is rapidly aging. In fact, the over-85 group is the fastest grow- ing segment of our society. Many older people will suffer the limita- tions associated with aging; many more are already at risk of losing

their self-sufficiency. These people turn to their families and friends for help.

A network of state and area agen- cies on aging provides services such as meal delivery and special transportation services. But as the number of older people increases, these resources won't be enough.

The National Eldercare Cam- paign has three specific goals: to make the public aware of aging- related issues and convince them to meet present and future needs of older people; to broaden resources available to older people by per- suading individuals and organiza- tions to prioritize aging issues; and to encourage community action on behalf of older Americans as part of its Project CARE (Community Action to Reach the Elderly) com- ponent.

The religious community can help by:

Increasing communities' elder- care resources by encouraging entire congregations to volunteer on behalf of isolated, frail, or ill older people. Link young and old members together in "adopt-a- grandparent" programs. Homemak- ers can shop for older people, pre- pare meals for homebound seniors, or serve as friendly visitors. Busi- ness people can donate money or

materials to be used for such ser- vices as home repair for the elderly.

Putting congregation members' special skills to use. A member involved in the media can help write articles or create a videotape about eldercare issues. The elderly themselves are potential volunteers, their advanced years often making them perfect for such tasks as teaching parenting skills to teenage parents.

Encouraging community action by setting up adult day care pro- grams, senior centers, or shops where older people can buy and sell arts and crafts in the church. Or simply supporting the efforts of already existing programs.

Cooperating with the Project CARE coalitions in Mississippi. Make church facilities available to people providing meals, fitness pro- grams, social activities, and contin- uing education programs to older people. Allow church buses or vans to be used to take seniors to med- ical appointments, on shopping trips, or for recreational excursions.

For more information on becom- ing involved in the National Elder- care Campaign, contact the Missis- sippi Department of Human Ser- vices, Division of Aging and Adult Services, and the Council on Aging at 1-800-345-6347.

In a recent issue of the Baptist Record, we carried the "House- tops" insert with a complete list of Mississippi's 1,978 churches and their giving records to missions. I decided to try and draw a parallel between churches giving through the Cooperative Program and sub- scribing to the Baptist Record. Quite sure, was I, that churches who read about missions, steward- ship, and volunteer work would be giving more. Also, I was sure churches without the Baptist Rec- ord would be suffering the conse- quences.

Well, I was wrong, painfully wrong. I selected 12 pilot churches among the 66 churches which gave nothing through the Cooperative Program. Three of these churches gave nothing and did not get the Baptist Record. The other nine churches gave nothing and received the paper.

Several churches received more Baptist Records than they had families, which means some fami- lies were getting "his and hers" edi- tions. Thus, only 25% of the no- reading, no-giving churches sup- ported my theory; 75% read the Baptist Record and still ignored the mission offering plate. (Error possibility would be plus or minus

50% in this survey.)

Truth is, I was amazed at the churches and their giving patterns. Of 1,978 churches, 1,539 are using the Every Family subscription plan or the Budget or Club subscription plans offered by the Baptist Rec- ord. Indeed, we are grateful for this high percentage. However, out of the 1,978 churches, 1,912 are sup- porting missions through the Coop- erative Program. For this, we thank God and commend the churches.

In a real study, David Michel and the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board discovered that 171 churches gave 15% or more of their receipts through the Cooperative Program, 322 churches gave between 11-15%, 739 churches gave between 6-10%, and 784 churches gave 5% or less.

These are good giving records, and compare favorably with other old-line states. Whether they read the Baptist Record or not, the mis- sion-interest level in Mississippi is to be commended.

Incidentally, we are now conduct- ing a survey to determine that Bap- tist Record readers are happier than the general populace, and if you would like to respond...

— GH

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 117

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 12

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Associate Editor William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer Teresa Dickens
Editorial Associate Florence Larrimore
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Bookkeeper Betty Anne Bailey
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Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Randy Turner, Laurel; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Teresa Dickens, secretary.
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 968-3800

Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting, June 13-14, 1993 Houston's First Baptist Church

7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77024

Theme: Summoned to Serve

"...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." (Eph. 4:12 NIV)

Sunday Afternoon, June 13

Summoned to Serve

2:30 General Session

Call to Worship — Choir and Orchestra, First Church, Houston

Call to Order — Carolyn D. Miller, president, WMU, SBC, Huntsville, Ala.

Hymns

Invocation — Marge Caldwell, Houston

Greetings — John Bisagno, pastor, First Church, Houston; Thomas Williams, administrator, First Church, Houston

Announcements

Message: "...it is the Lord Christ you are serving." David Fuller, home missionary, Cleveland, Ohio

Prayer of Intercession — Tom Law, foreign missionary, Paraguay

Presentation of National Acteens Panelists — Jan Turrentine, Accent editor, WMU, SBC Birmingham, Ala.

Hymn

Testimony: "...do not forget to do good and to share with others." missions volunteer

Special Music — Vision, First Church, Houston

Message: "...keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." — Mildred McWhorter, home missionary, Houston

Prayer of Intercession — Mary Love, foreign missionary, Guyana

Musical Meditation — Fred Wilmer, music artist, Mineral Wells, Texas; Choir, First Church, Houston

Sunday Evening, June 13

Go Out and Tell

6:00 Simultaneous Banquets — Westin Galleria Hotel, 5060 West Alabama, Houston, (reservations only)

Monday Morning, June 14

Summoned to Serve

9:30 General Session

Call to Order — Carolyn Miller

Call to Worship — Heart Song, First Church, Houston; Pam Young, soloist, Brenham, Texas

Hymn

Invocation

Announcements and Introductions

Message: "...go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you." — Michael and Kathie Chute, foreign missionaries, Hong Kong

Prayer of Intercession — Patricia Lane, home missionary, Dallas

Hymn

Business

Executive Board Report — Carolyn Miller, Dellanna O'Brien

Hymn

Prayer of Intercession — Mary Helen Dixon, development specialist, WMU, Birmingham

Offering

Special Music — New Covenant, First Church, Houston

Prayer of Intercession — Dottie Williamson, home missionary, Clinton, Miss.

Message: "...those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." — Karen Hopper, foreign missionary, Philippines

Hymn

Message: "Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did." — Beverly D. Scott, professor emerita, Department of Urban Planning, Rutgers University, Orange, New Jersey

Prayer of Intercession — Viola Palmer, foreign missionary, Nicaragua

Preview of the Afternoon — Dellanna O'Brien

Closing Meditation — Fred Wilmer

Monday Afternoon, June 14

Summoned to Serve

12:00-1:30 Box lunch (reservations only) — Meet the Missionaries, First Church, 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston

12:00-4:30 Box lunch and tour of Missions Points in Houston (reservations only)

1:30-2:30 AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES — Meet the Missionaries; Mini Prayer Retreat, Mary Ann Bridgewater, member, First Church, Houston; A.D. Players, Houston; Houston Baptist University Choir; Seamen's Ministry Project; WMU in The News: The Rest of The Story, Karen Benson, Joyce Mitchell, Bobbie Patterson, WMU staff; Baptist Book Store

CONFERENCES:

World Hunger... A Challenge for Mission Action — Nathan Porter, field staff consultant for Hunger and Migrant Ministries, HMB; God's Call to Women in the 90's — Dee Jepsen, director, "Enough is Enough"

See WMU on page 10

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 29, 1993

Published Since 1877

Three faculty members denied endowed chairs at Southern

By Mark Wingfield

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Three faculty members of Southern Seminary have been denied appointments to endowed chairs by a trustee committee without explanation.

Gerald Keown, Raymond Bailey, and William Hendricks were among five professors recommended for the chair appointments by seminary administrators.

However, the trustee academic personnel committee, in sessions during the April 19-21 trustee meeting, approved only two of the five recommendations for action by the full board.

Also during the spring meeting, trustees elected three men to new faculty positions, named retiring President Roy Honeycutt seminary chancellor and elected new trustee officers.

New faculty members elected by trustees are Marvin Anderson, professor of church history; Carey Newman, assistant professor of New Testament; and Vaughn Walker, associate professor of black church studies.

Keown was to have been named to the Martha and Talmadge Rogers Chair of Old Testament Interpretation. Bailey was to have been named to the Victor and

Louise Lester Chair of Christian Preaching. Hendricks was to have been named to the Roy L. Honeycutt Chair of Christian Theology. All three remain on the faculty.

After the academic personnel committee made its report to the full board April 21, trustee Julian Pentecost of Virginia asked what had happened to the other three recommended appointments.

Trustee John Allen of Mississippi, who next year will serve as first vice chairman of the board, immediately objected to the question being discussed.

However, academic personnel committee chairman Rick White — who will be trustee chairman next year — answered with a brief statement: "There is no recommendation out of committee at this time.... It is inappropriate for me to go beyond that."

When asked for clarification in an interview after the session, White declined further comment. White also declined to either confirm or deny a rumor circulating on campus that the conservative-dominated board derailed the appointments because the professors belong to churches which support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

George Steincross, a trustee from

Missouri who resigned from the board in protest at the end of the spring meeting, said he thinks trustees violated the covenant.

"What it is, of course, is punitive. These are measures to punish professors who get out of line," he said. "It is a raw breaking of the covenant."

Bailey, professor of preaching, also said he believes trustees broke the covenant. "This action, or non-action, is a clear abrogation of the covenant which supposedly exists between the trustees and faculty."

Bailey said he has received indications that trustees believed he "generally did not support the direction of the seminary" and were unhappy with his support of women in ministry and with views he had expressed on a joint faculty-trustee committee.

"It makes very clear that a purge is going on, that faculty will be punished if they have any independent thought," Bailey said.

"I weep for the continuing assault on the Baptist tradition of dissent and academic freedom. I will not sacrifice my integrity on the altar of political accommodation."

Wingfield is news director, Kentucky's WESTERN RECORDER.

FMB affirms WMU resolution

By Robert O'Brien

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP) — Foreign Mission Board trustees affirmed a Executive Committee resolution on Woman's Missionary Union and named Faye Pearson, a missionary to Taiwan, as the board's first woman area director during their April 19-21 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

Trustees also appointed or reappointed 42 missionaries, re-elected their chairman, voted to enter Syria, heard reports on advances into World A — the fourth of the globe that has had little or no Christian witness — and heard cautions about financial considerations for the future.

During their meeting, the board trustees unanimously affirmed a Executive Committee "Resolution of Concern and Commitment" on the Woman's Missionary Union, approved in February.

The Executive Committee's resolution affirmed the Woman's Missionary Union's many contributions to promoting missions over the past 105 years. But it called on the WMU to cooperate only with the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. It said the committee would honor

the WMU's status as a convention auxiliary as long as it "pledges its faithful and solitary support of the missions offerings and missions programs of the Southern Baptist Convention and its mission boards."

Trustees also approved entering Syria, where Southern Baptist personnel were requested by local churches through the Baptist Convention in Syria. The convention churches meet in two cities: Homs and Damascus, the capital. The Mideast nation, with a population of

about 14 million, recognized Islam as its official religion before 1973. Since then Syria has been a secular state with Islam recognized as the religion of the majority, with other minorities accorded rights.

Reports on advances in unevangelized World A indicated the board now has 375 workers — almost 10% of its total overseas force — assigned to minister in the vast region. More than 40 workers were assigned in March and April alone.

O'Brien writes for FMB.

McSwain heads Shorter College

ROME, Ga. (BP) — Southern Seminary's provost, Larry L. McSwain, has been elected as the 16th president of Shorter College.

McSwain, 52, has been a faculty member of the Louisville, Ky., seminary since 1970. In addition to provost, he is professor of church and community at Southern and previously has been dean of the seminary's school of theology and director of master of divinity studies.

Since Mohler's election, two deans also have announced career changes: Milburn Price, dean of the school of church music, who will become dean of the school of music at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and William B. Rogers, dean of the school of Christian education, who will step down as dean July 31 but remain on the faculty.

"This is a period of administrative restructuring and transition for Southern Seminary," Mohler told Baptist Press in a telephone interview April 26.



FMB donates Italian properties

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention recently gave final approval to donate most of its properties in Italy to the Italian Baptist Union. Value of those properties is estimated at \$70 million. Formal assignation took place in the library of Alberto Politi in Rome, Italy. Participants in the signing, left to right, were: Antonino Ramirez, Italian legal consultant, serving as witness for the FMB; Renato Maiocchi, attendant; **Mississippi missionary Robert A. Hollfield**, FMB treasurer in Italy, signing for FMB; Franco Scaramuccia, president of the Italian Baptist Union, signing to receive the properties; Franco Clemente, attendant; and Giuliana Spanu Clemente, witness for the Italian Baptist Union. Also attending were Helene Ramirez, president of the Italian Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; **Mississippi missionary James Watts**, president of the Italian Baptist Mission; Dudley Graves; and **Flora Hollfield**, FMB missionary and native of Mississippi. Southern Baptist missionaries have worked in Italy since 1870; currently 11 missionaries serve there.

FMB plans jobs cut, blames rising costs

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board will cut home office positions to compensate for falling revenue and rising costs expected in 1994, interim president Don Kammerdiener announced April 16.

Kammerdiener said it's too early to forecast how many of the board's 464 full- and part-time employees will actually lose their jobs — or when.

"You may hear rumors as the possibilities are considered, but I urge you to wait for the facts as they develop," Kammerdiener said in a memo to board staff. "We will strive to minimize trauma to staff members without compromising our service to the Lord and his work through the Foreign Mission Board."

Kammerdiener hopes to make final decisions in May, he said.

Before then, each of the board's eight vice presidents will review with the president what functions should be reduced or eliminated in 1994. "Identifying the reductions now will allow us to fill vacancies that arise with staff members who may be displaced," Kammerdiener said. The board also will consider offering outplacement and other services to employees who lose their jobs.

In his memo, Kammerdiener referred to the downward trend of Cooperative Program giving and the projected shortfall in gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions for 1992. The shortfall and rising costs "leave the Foreign Mission

Board with less buying power," he said.

Overseas field budgets will need to be trimmed also, he said.

Kammerdiener projects in October he will present trustees a smaller budget for 1994 than the current budget, he said.

"Every single year we have to make a projection," Kammerdiener said. "As we've made a projection this year, we are anticipating a reduced budget for 1994."

The Executive Committee voted in February to send the Foreign Mission Board a projected \$69 million next year, or about \$1 million less than this year.

It's too early to know how Southern Baptists will respond to the 1993 Lottie Moon Offering and how much of the foreign missions budget the offering will support. Projections show the 1992 offering — to be counted at the end of May — will total about \$1.5 million less than it did the year before.

Croll is staff writer for the Foreign Mission Board.

Correction

In its April 22 issue, the *Baptist Record* published an article on the death of Mary D. Yarborough Bradley, daughter of former Jackson pastor W.F. Yarborough, and wife of the late L.C. Bradley of Dallas, Texas.

That article originally referred to Mrs. Bradley as Mary D. Yarborough.

Volunteerism is success story but other goals lag behind

By Mark Wingfield

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Increasing volunteerism may be one of the greatest contributions Bold Mission Thrust has made to Southern Baptists' global witness, several key observers believe.

At the same Southern Baptist Convention where messengers approved Bold Mission Thrust, they heard a challenge from then-President Jimmy Carter to drastically increase the missions involvement of lay volunteers.

That challenge resulted in formation of programs of long-term volunteer service on home and foreign mission fields. Subsequently, other short-term volunteer programs have been developed by both the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board.

Bold Mission Thrust calls for enlisting a combined total of 350,000 volunteers during the five-year period from 1990 to 1995 and 400,000 volunteers during the period from 1995 to 2000.

For the last year of record, the HMB and FMB reported use of

83,083 volunteers — well above the annual rate needed to reach the ultimate goal.

The other Bold Mission Thrust goal on target relates to home missionaries. Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of 4,500 home missionaries by 1995 and 5,000 by the year 2000. The current total is 4,868, although the way missionaries are counted by the HMB has changed since Bold Mission Thrust goals were set.

Goals lagging behind target achievements include:

— **Baptisms.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of 2.1 million baptisms reported by churches during the 1990-1995 church years and 2.5 million during the 1995-2000 church years. Achieving the 2.1 million goal would require 420,000 baptisms annually. In the 1991-92 church year, Southern Baptists baptized 367,847 people.

— **New church starts.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of 50,000 churches and church-type missions in existence by the year

2000. Currently, the SBC counts 43,387 churches and missions. Achieving the goal requires starting 1,500 new congregations each year. Last year, 1,281 new churches were started, the highest number in recent years.

— **Stewardship.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of \$20 billion in undesignated church offerings annually by the year 2000. Last year's total was nearly \$4 billion.

— **Foreign missionaries.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of 4,800 foreign missionaries by 1995 and 5,600 by the year 2000. The current missionary force is 3,893.

— **Intercessory prayer.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for each association to have a functioning network of intercessory prayer by 1995 and for each church to have such by the year 2000. As of last year, 34% of associations reported intercessory prayer ministries. No report was available on churches.

Wingfield is news director of Kentucky Western Recorder.

Comic strip's homosexual theme opens door for parent/child talk

By William H. Perkins Jr.

While the homosexual theme of a national comic strip has created an uproar in religious circles, Baptist counselors in Mississippi suggest that Christian parents use the opportunity to talk to their children about the issue in a spiritual context.

Lynn Johnston, author of the popular "For Better or For Worse" serial comic strip, has penned a story line that follows a teenage boy as he struggles with reaction of friends and family to his announcement that he is homosexual. The latest installments show a growing acceptance of his lifestyle by his best friend and his family, all of whom had initially shunned him.

The theme of the strip has, understandably, generated intense reactions.

"All Christians should now come together to not only fight this blight on our nation, but all the others that seem to be cropping up since we decided to knuckle under like a bunch of cowards to the powers that be. I refuse to believe... that our Lord and Savior intended for us as Christians to sit idly by and allow the enemy to run over us," read a recent letter to the editor of the *Baptist Record*.

Christian professionals who counsel people on sexuality say there is little chance that the strip will alter someone's sexual identity, and they add there are positive ways to use the strip for discussion of a front-burner issue that has, or soon will, confront most Baptists, their children, and their churches.

Buddy Wagner, director of counseling and career development at Mississippi College in Clinton,

does not believe the strip will affect a person's sexual orientation.

"It would not cause someone to be homosexual; homosexuality is more complicated than that. It might convince some young people to see it as acceptable, however," he said.

Wagner recommended that Christians assure themselves that they have considered the whole picture when reacting to the strip.

"Context is important. What image is being presented?" he asked.

Ron Mumbower, minister for counseling at First Church, Jackson, said, "I don't like it, but there is a greater issue: parents ought to be aware of what is going on and be able to handle it in an appropriate manner."

Mumbower said the strip is an indication of the social pressure

faced by American children.

"It affirms that children are being bombarded with this type of information. When that happens, children look for authority from home—their parents. We don't have to be 'the answer man', but if we abdicate our role, someone else can take our children and tell them that they have the truth," he pointed out.

"The only way to overcome homosexuality is to build stronger families by building closer relationships among family members," he said.

Mumbower added that his young children read comics, and he intends to talk with them about the strip.

"This is a challenge to Christian parents. It is an opportunity to discuss family values with our children," he said.

Mississippian is first woman to serve as area director overseas

Faye Pearson, 52, a missionary in Taiwan for 24 years, was elected area director for mission work in East Asia April 21 by the Foreign Mission Board trustees. An associate area director since 1988, she will oversee the work of some 500 missionaries in Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, South Korea, and Taiwan.



Pearson

She is the first woman to be

elected as an area director. Five other women are associate area directors, one woman has served as a regional vice president, another has been vice president for communications and others have held administrative posts overseas and on the home office staff over the years.

A native of Laurel, Pearson received the bachelor of arts degree from McNeese State University, Lake Charles, La., and the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Teens' no-sex pledge catching attention

By Terri Lackey

NASHVILLE (BP) — Paul Ballenger knows of only two other male virgins at the middle Tennessee university he attends.

"I'm proud to be a virgin and I'm willing to tell that to the world," Ballenger said during the April 21 launch of a Southern Baptist-sponsored abstinence campaign called "True Love Waits."

Abstaining from sex is not a new fad for Ballenger, 19, and his girlfriend, Susan Fitzgerald, 18, a high school senior. During the early stage of their now two-year courtship, they discussed their beliefs about sex before marriage.

"After we had dated about two months, I asked him what he thought about sex before marriage," Fitzgerald said. "I think it sort of shocked him."

"No, I was OK with that," Ballenger responded. "We have the same beliefs in that area."

Fitzgerald said her strong moral beliefs are a result of parental guidance.

"Paul and I were brought up in the same type of family. Our parents taught us strong values and morals," Fitzgerald said. "The one thing my parents taught me since I was little was to stay sexually pure until marriage."

Ballenger acknowledged staying sexually pure is not without its challenges.

"I come home every weekend from school, and it is a constant struggle. But I've made a commitment to more than just myself. I've made it to God, and I've made it to others," he said.

"I think true love can wait."

The two teenagers, along with about 50 others from their church, stood before a group of about 1,000 youth ministers from 32 states attending the Youth Ministry National Conference 4 and made public their pledges to no sex before marriage.

Encouraged by a standing ovation, the youth from Tulip Grove Church in Hermitage, Tenn., ceremoniously walked to the front of the sanctuary at First Baptist of Nashville where the meeting was held and laid in a mound their

cards pledging premarital abstinence.

The cards state: "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, those I date, my future mate, and my future children to be sexually pure until the day I enter a covenant marriage relationship."

The Tulip Grove youth are the first in an expected 100,000 to make that same commitment over the next year, according to Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board and youth minister at Tulip Grove.

With the help of the youth ministers attending the conference, the campaign is expected to snowball across the convention, picking up new pledges at the local, association, and state levels, Ross said. By June 1994 at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., Ross expects 100,000 teens to have signed the cards committing to abstinence before marriage.

Teens today seem to be living a self-fulfilled prophesy, Ross said. Because prophylactics are handed out in many schools systems across the country, young people are given the message it is OK to have sex.

"We need to be telling them it is perfectly OK for them to remain sexually pure. It's OK to respect yourself, to have true love for yourself, true love for God and true love for that spouse you haven't even met yet."

A special "True Love Waits" campaign kit has been assembled and includes worship plans for families, churches, associations, and state conventions; an outline for a youth Bible study; and promotional materials. The kits can be obtained for \$3 each by writing to True Love Waits, MSN 158 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234.

In conjunction with the campaign, the Sunday School Board will begin releasing this month a series of Christian Sex Education materials which will be available at Baptist Book Stores.

Lackey writes for BSSB.

Thursday, April 29, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



1993 BSU Summer Missionaries

Name

Home church

Place of Service

Christy Abbott
Michael Aoa
Heather Arnold
Russell Barnes
Jason Blackburn
Charles Blake
Carmen Breland
Allyson Bridges
Chris Brown
Pam Brown
Laura Burnett
Kirsten Bush
Christy Byrd
Brian Campbell
Nathan Carroll
Jackie Chatel
Kathryn Clayton
Becky Courtney
Bobby Daniel
Mark Davis
Angi Donald
Rachelle Dunn
Rita Ezell
Keith Gardner
Robin Garrett
Jan Gilbreath
Susan Hales
Boyd Herrington
April Hicks
Erik Holder
Damell Isaac
Charles Jackson
Judy Jenkins
Cherish Johnson
Toby Johnston
Phil Keller
Tori Laffoon
Jennifer Lamkin
Amy Leggett
Cindy Magee
Julie Magee
Julia Massey
Wes McMichael
Derek Melton
Jonathan Miles
Stewart Moody
Albert Moore
Melissa Morgan
Theo Parson
Peter Pinnow
Tim Pippin
April Presnell
Kim Prime
Jana Rayborn
Todd Rayburn
Robin Reid
Trudy Routh
Keith Simpson
Ellen Smith
Kim South
Georgia Spence
Ginger Stalls
Amy Stevens
David Thurman
Aimee Turner
Gregory Woodward
John Works

Union Seminary, Laurel
First, Corinth
Kirby Woods, Memphis, Tenn.
Bethel, Dothan, Ala.
First, Clifton, Tenn.
Alta Woods, Jackson
Unity, Leakesville
Crowder, Crowder
First, Fenton, Mo.
Immanuel, Cleveland
First, Gautier
Woodville Heights, Jackson
First, Starkville
Parkway, Kosciusko
West Union, Carriere
Lilly Orchard, Pascagoula
First, Starkville
Highland, Crystal Springs
West Ellisville, Ellisville
First, Grenada
First of Myrick, Laurel
New Prospect, Brookhaven
First, Starkville
Loui, Louin
Woodville Heights, Jackson
Hernando, Hernando
Georgia Hills, Memphis, Tenn.
Victory, Mathiston
Alta Woods, Jackson
First, Beaumont
Macedonia, Philadelphia
Salem, Fayette
First, Terry
St. Matthews M.B., Jackson
First, Hattiesburg
First, Kenner, La.
First, Columbus
Emmanuel, Grenada
North Long Beach, Long Beach
First, Batesville
New Hope, Foxworth
First, Water Valley
First, Kosciusko
First, Batesville
Lowrey Memorial, Blue Mountain
First, Morton
Center Hill, Van Vleet
First, Richton
First, Hattiesburg
Broadway, Olive Branch
Tuckers Crossing, Ellisville
Jayess, Jayess
First, Vancleave
First, Columbia
West Union, Carriere
Bethlehem, Laurel
First, Flowood
Wildwood, Clinton
Parkview, Greenville
Tishomingo, Tishomingo
Corinth, Picayune
Immanuel, Germantown, Tenn.
Trinity, Southaven
Carterville, Petal
Shiloh, Deer Park, Ala.
First, Ellisville
First, Starkville

The Northwest
Montana
Canada
Korea
Canada
The Northwest
California
Alaska
Zimbabwe
Wyoming
Canada
Montana
Montana
Montana
Zimbabwe
Alaska
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Malaysia
California
Wyoming
Iowa
Canada
Wyoming
New York
Kazakhstan
The Northwest
Arizona
Kazakhstan

MBMC plans seminar on needs of HIV/AIDS patients

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center is sponsoring a seminar entitled, "I Was Sick and You Visited Me," for those who minister to the spiritual needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS. The program is scheduled for Monday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

The program examines the physico-social, relational, ethical, and theological implications of the disease for patients, families, caregivers, and others. Speakers include William Causey, infectious disease physician; Trudye Garraway, registered nurse; Roger Paynter, senior minister at Northminster Church, Jackson; Ruth

Black, chaplain at University Medical Center in Jackson; Steven Engle, rabbi at Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson; Elvin Sands, executive director of Catholic Charities; George Anderson, senior pastor at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Jackson; Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, director of pastoral care at Mississippi State Hospital; and David Jackson, minister of the Meadowbrook Church of Christ in Jackson.

The \$5 fee includes program content, handout materials, breaks, and lunch. Call (601) 968-1712 to register or to receive more information.

capsules

UNKNOWN AILMENT SPARKS HUMANITARIAN AID TO CUBA: HAVANA, Cuba (EP) — Some 1,000 people in Cuba have been infected by a disease which causes blindness, said the Cuban Ecumenical Council. The origin of the disease is unknown. Several hospitals in Havana have sought the help of the Cuban Ecumenical Council in obtaining liquid vitamins with which to treat the disease. A shipment of the vitamins is being prepared to be sent to the Council. Since receiving a U.S. government license to deliver humanitarian aid to Cuba in April 1992, Church World Service has sent eight shipments of food, powdered milk, health kits, medicines, and medical supplies to the Cuban Ecumenical Council.

POPE ASKS BOSNIAN RAPE VICTIMS NOT TO ABORT: VATICAN CITY, Rome (EP) — In a letter to the Archbishop of Sarajevo, Vinko Puljic, Pope John Paul II appealed to Bosnian women who conceived children after being raped to give birth to their children, and not to seek abortions. The Pope said the children born out of such acts had no responsibility for the "ignoble violence" they had undergone. "As images of God," he said, "these new creatures must be respected and loved no differently from any other member of the human family."

"CRUSADES WERE WRONG" SORROW IN HOLY CITY: Israel — A group of Christian leaders gathered in Jerusalem last month and said "sorry" for the bloodshed of the Crusades. Standing on the spot along the city ramparts breached by the Crusaders almost nine centuries ago, they asked God's forgiveness for the massacre of "thousands of Arabs and Jews under the banner of the cross." The prayers of repentance were made during a special five-day gathering in the Holy City by senior leaders from Youth With a Mission. The 20-strong group, from around the world, had travelled to Israel especially for the prayer days, which marked the beginning of a month's special intercession for the Muslim world. Tens of thousands of Christians are believed to have joined in the YWAM-initiated prayer event, coinciding with the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. — YWAM International News.

CALIFORNIA COUNTIES LEAD LIST OF NON-CHRISTIAN POPULATION: ATLANTA (BP) — Three of the top four counties in non-Christian population are in Southern California, according to a study by the Home Mission Board research department. The study is based on 1990 population figures and estimates of numbers of people who are not Christians. It includes data from 3,105 counties. The estimated number of lost people in the top 10 counties follow: 1. Los Angeles — 6.9 million 2. Cook (Chicago) — 3.7 million 3. San Diego — 2.1 million 4. Orange (Near Los Angeles) — 2.0 million 5. Harris (Houston) — 1.8 million 6. Kings (metro New York City) — 1.8 million 7. Maricopa (Phoenix) — 1.7 million 8. Dade (Miami) — 1.6 million 9. Queens (New York City) — 1.6 million 10. Wayne (Detroit) — 1.4 million.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER'S THEME SONG PLEADS FOR HEALING: NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP) — "Heal Our Land," written and recorded by musician Michael Card, has been designated the official theme song for the National Day of Prayer, to be observed May 6. The song was commissioned by the National Day of Prayer Committee and by Focus on the Family's Shirley Dobson. "On May 6 your voice will be heard, not only by God who hears our prayers every day, but by this country who will be listening to hear how much the freedom to pray means to us," said Card.

EVANGELICAL LEADERS ASSEMBLE, PROMOTE PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS: LIMA, Peru (EP) — Representatives of various evangelical denominations and institutions participated in the 54th General Assembly of the National Evangelical Council of Peru. Some 80 leaders attended the conference, held in Lima, March 8-11. The assembly approved plans to place special emphasis on evangelization and mobilization of the church and the promotion and defense of human rights and peace. The National Evangelical Council and Latin American Theological Fraternity were planning a congress on evangelization April 22-24. The congress is a follow-up to the Third Latin American Congress on Evangelization held in Quito, Ecuador last year.

CALIFORNIA-BASED MINISTRY OPENS CHRISTIAN RESOURCE CENTER IN MOSCOW: LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP) — World Vision has recently opened a Christian Resource Center in Moscow, according to Serge Duss, organizer of the center and World Vision's director in the former Soviet Union. "The Christian Resource Center's primary objective is to provide accurate and timely information about economic, social, political, and religious developments in Russia and other republics that impact Christian ministry. In the rush to ministry, organizations frequently are uncertain what opportunities, obstacles, and needs are here," said Duss. The center publishes a news magazine and the "East-West Christian Directory," both of which will be translated into English. A 90-page "Survival Guide to Real Life in Moscow" is being written for American Christians planning ministry visits there.

Theologians' stances vary on Bible, role of women in church

(ABP) — Theologians don't all agree on the meaning or the modern-day application of Bible passages dealing with the role of women. But many — if not most — would agree that some of those passages are quite difficult to deal with.

Even among conservative evangelicals, many of them self-described inerrantists, there is genuine disagreement on the meaning of certain passages, said Joe Trull, associate professor of Christian ethics at New Orleans Seminary.

As Christians study the Bible and seek to apply its truths to their lives today, they must cross gaps in time, language and culture, explained David Dockery, dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Dockery noted that differences in interpretations of a particular verse or passage sometimes depend on the reader's perception of whether the message was directed toward a specific, limited situation or was intended as a wide-ranging injunction for all time.

To understand the Bible's teachings about women's roles, Dockery said, one must consider not only the "proscriptive" passages but also the "descriptive" passages which tell how women served in the early church.

Along with proscriptive statements that women should be silent (1 Cor. 14:34) and not teach or exercise authority over men (1 Tim. 2:12) are descriptive passages indicating that both Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos (Acts 18:26) and that Philip's four daughters prophesied (Acts 21:9).

The Bible student must attempt to find a "complementary reading" of such passages, Dockery

said, and then "move from there to see if there are cultural patterns in our day that match." If there are not, the student must then work at contextualizing the Scriptures to gain an appropriate understanding of their meaning for today.

But even with careful study, Dockery acknowledged, people sometimes will study the same Scriptures and come up with different answers.

Noting two possible meanings for the Greek word for women translated "wives" in 1 Timothy 3:11, theology professor Danny Akin commented, "Dogmatism at this point is unwarranted." The word is ambiguous in that context, he said, and could be rendered either "deacons' wives" or "deaconesses." Akin is dean of students at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

"It's important to measure Scripture by its conformity to the ministry of Jesus," added Mólly Marshall, associate professor of Christian theology at Southern Seminary.

The professors pointed out that Jesus challenged the attitudes and practices of first-century Jewish society, in which women typically were regarded as inferior, often

were treated as property, and usually were denied the privilege of an education.

In the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42), Trull suggested, the issue may not have been so much that Martha needed help in the kitchen as it was that Mary was acting "unwomanlike." In his answer to Martha, Jesus defended Mary's right to sit at his feet and learn.

At a time when women were not even permitted to testify as witnesses in court, it was women who were entrusted with the most important message of all — the fact that Jesus had been raised from the dead (Matt. 28:7).

While holding to the view that God has reserved certain leadership roles in the home and church for men, Akin insisted: "The Bible in every way emphasizes the complete equality of men and women before God. They equally bear the image of God."

Women have been given gifts for leadership by the Holy Spirit and should exercise those gifts in the church for the good of the congregation, Marshall insisted. "The church needs all of the brothers and sisters to do the work of Christ."

Parks Church, Glendora, state offering combination forms new works in Delta

By Joe Young

One of the places where the 1992 Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering is already at work is Calvary Chapel, Parchman. The mission, now finishing its third year in ministry to state penitentiary staff families, has had growing pains and is adding an additional 2700 square feet of educational space.

The new congregation had no members when Parks Church, Glendora, agreed to teach, preach, lead music, and do whatever was needed each Sunday. Parks had no people to spare for new work, but the pastor and members decided to do everything twice, in two locations.

The result: 33 new Christians — most newly baptized. Of more than 1,200 people in the penitentiary area, over 100 are enrolled in Calvary's Sunday School.

The original 2,600 square-foot building was dedicated debt-free in May 1992. Because growth slowed as the building became crowded, the mission began to build. With enough resources to fund basic construction, it applied for missions funds to put the building under roof. The \$4,000 from the state missions offering will give the congregation the ability to help itself.

The people of Parks Church believe any church which sees a need can sponsor new work. Mission-minded Baptists can help a

mission-minded church do new work.

The result of Parks' sponsorship of new work has been significantly higher attendance and offerings, and the church has since "adopted" a church at nearby Brazil which closed in August 1992. The reopening of that church has resulted in 26 more persons being reached with weekly ministry.

The people at Calvary Chapel and their sponsor, Parks Church, say "thank you" to Mississippi Baptists.

Young is pastor of Parks Church, Glendora.



M.C. Johnson (left), director of missions for North Delta Association, presents a check for the Calvary Chapel building fund to Joe Young, pastor of Parks Church in Glendora. (Photo courtesy of The Sun-Sentinel, Charleston)

Red Banks Church to celebrate 145 years

Red Banks Church, Red Banks, will celebrate its 145th anniversary and homecoming festivities on May 1 and 2. A softball tournament and games for the young and old will be held on Saturday at 3 p.m., followed by a barbecue at 6 p.m. There will be a lamplight worship service with former pastor Charles Shipman of Helena, Ark., as speaker.

Shipman will also speak on Sunday at the 11 a.m. worship service. A covered dish fellowship will follow the morning service. The fellowship will conclude with a concert by In Harmony, a quartet from Bellevue Church, Memphis. Following the concert, Shipman will bring the final homecoming message. Jeff Bosley is pastor.

Letters to the editor

A nation in trouble

Editor:

While financial woes appear to be receiving the most attention from people and the media, those concerns are not the underlying problems in America. Rather, the underlying problems are moral decay, or it could be said, immoral disaster.

The only way under heaven to rectify our problems and bring America back to God is for revival to come to our land. Then and only then can there be a cleansing of the filth and debauchery that we see right before our eyes.

I do not believe that we can ever change America, or rid it of immoral disaster, through the political process. I am not a prophet or priest, but I believe with all my heart that there is no way that any group of politicians can turn America around and make it a safe place to live and rear a family. We do not have a govern-

ment; we have a bureaucracy out of control.

I know most people can still remember a proud America! We were proud to be called "American" in any land. We were proud of our countryside, our beautiful farms, the smell of a growing crop after a summer rain, and the closeness of our neighbors.

I remember when we knew where our children were and our children knew where their parents were; when our beautiful towns and cities were safe places to live; when a man's word was his bond; when we saw Old Glory waving, we knew we would give our lives to protect it.

It's like waking up from a good dream to realize that something horrible has happened. In our haste and greed, we have turned our backs on God and moral decay is rampant. We thought the roller coaster ride was free. We elected greedy politicians.

We cannot hide from the monster

we helped create. No one is safe anywhere. Too much of the spirit of America is lost. We have thrown our country to the wind, and we are now reaping the whirlwind.

Only by divine providence, with Christians across America falling to their knees and praying for revival to a loving and caring God, will there be hope for America.

God bless America — our America.

Tom Walden
Jackson

Playing God?

Editor:

We Baptists have taken upon ourselves the right to change the method of presenting the gospel that God has ordained should be by preaching. We now have men playing, acting the part of the Lord Jesus Christ, in church plays. How ungodly and dishonoring this sin is. I call it sinful for any man to act the part of the Lord Jesus Christ. The fourth commandment forbids any image to represent the Triune God.

Is it not significant that most popular means of presenting the gospel today is by means of puppet shows, ventriloquist acts, magic shows, and religious plays and movies — all which are planned to move people emotionally but cannot save anybody. The Holy Spirit has not promised to bless these means to bring sinners to Christ for salvation.

Now, people know very well the performers in plays and movies are only pretending to pray or preach or repent; and they know quite well the magic is a trick and that dummies do not speak. We can't stand the unmitigated truth of God's Word by a God-called and God-sent preacher any more. We would rather pretend that Christianity is a game and that means justify the end results, no matter what God's Word says. Church plays are nothing but religious entertainment to get the people to our churches. Singing in church is not to entertain people; but for holy people to worship God and praise his name.

Don Clayton
Columbus

Bias is culprit

Editor:

I am concerned with the intent and spirit of the article written by Jack E. Brymer Sr. regarding state Baptist papers. Could it be that the decline in circulation in some state papers is directly tied to some of the biased reporting done on the issues confronting Southern Baptists? Mr. Brymer laments that "freedom, soul-competency, autonomy, priesthood of the believer," have been "abused" and "ignored" under the banner of "conservative resurgency." But is not the conservative resurgency a direct result of these principles? When a convention delegate casts a vote without coercion based upon his or her competence as a Christian in the spirit of prayer, is

this the abuse of these historic Baptist principles?

Mr. Brymer says what is happening in our Convention is a "theological redirection of who we are as Baptists," but our forefathers would turn over in their graves if they knew of the theological implications justified by the use of these historic Baptist principles today.

Finally, Mr. Brymer seems to imply that we should give up "theological correctness" to "pursue truth." But can truth be pursued any other way than in a theological context as it applies to the church? Should we allow professors to teach that the blood atonement of Jesus Christ is not a necessity but an "early church interpolation" as a professor in a Baptist college stated to me in a classroom context? Would his pursuit of truth without biblical foundation ending in heresy be acceptable to Mr. Brymer?

Conservatives are not afraid of the "truth" but the truth will not come out unless their views are represented fairly and proportionately in the media.

Dennis McKay, pastor
Immanuel Church, Greenwood

Civic religion dangerous

Editor:

In response to the "Christian Principles" letter from April 15, J. Brent Walker's views on American history aren't the only ones crying out for rebuttal. When one understands our founding fathers as having come here for the purpose of promoting religious liberty, sees those men as saints, and believes our country is favored by God in the same sense as biblical Israel, one has a civic religion.

Franklin Littell warned against the dangers of civic religion by declaring, "The worst enemy of positive Protestant effort has been the willingness of many who pro-

fess the Protestant position to rest their case on the preservation of reserved privileges." If preachers are to maintain credibility, they had better proclaim factual information. The facts concerning the founding of our nation are available. The difficulty of interpreting those facts gives birth to a number of myths which should not be perpetuated in the pulpit.

The writer of "Christian Principles" suggested religious freedom as the primary reason for colonists coming to America. I disagree. Economic stress was responsible for bringing the majority of colonists to America. Dieter Hessel correctly stated that the early movers and shakers of our nation were individuals "preoccupied only with their rights—the rights of propertied men." The deliberate exclusion of slaves, women, and native Americans from the full blessings of liberty and the existence of state churches within the early colonies, indicate that America was not founded for either the religious or economic liberty of all men.

Charles Scott Shaver, pastor
Rawls Spgs. Church, Hattiesburg

Eliminate TV programs

Editor:

Thank you for your article about Clear-TV boycotting Johnson Wax company. If we want to eliminate TV programs that display sex, violence, and profanity on prime-time programs, we must boycott this company that sponsors the worst programs. They refuse to "clean up their act." If everyone will help, it will work.

Here is the mailing address and the 800 number of the company so that you can make your wishes known: S.C. Johnson Wax Company, 1525 Howe Street, Racine, WI 53403, 1-800-558-5252.

Marie Madden
Pascagoula

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1,200 attend keyboard festivals

Twelve hundred forty-eight children and youths, grades 1-12, representing 387 Baptist churches from 73 associations, and 204 non-Baptist churches, participated in 11 Area Keyboard Festivals in January. The highest attendance ever recorded at an Area Keyboard Festival in Mississippi was 800 at First Church, Jackson. Leaders at that festival were Sheri Adamson and Glen Crosthwait; Megan Poirrier (above) of Terry, member of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, was one of 282 participants. Dot Pray, contract consultant for the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, coordinated the festivals; L. Graham Smith is director, Church Music Department, MBCB.

Just for the Record



Calvary Church, Columbia, held dedication on Feb. 21 for its education building and a bus. On program were Bill Ready and Jack Bradshaw. Robert Toney III is interim pastor.

The Liberty Quartet and New Generation will be in concert at Arrowood Church, Meridian, Saturday, May 1, at 7 p.m. Kevin Griffin is pastor.

The 12th annual Mississippi State Hospital Day is scheduled for May 15 at the softball field recreation area on the grounds of the hospital. It is a day filled with fun, food, games, contests, and entertainment. For more information, call Jerald Ball at (601) 939-1221, ext. 205.

Southern Baptist Women in Ministry will hold a Decade Celebration service of worship and communion in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting in Birmingham, Ala., on May 13. An outdoor party featuring humorist Rod McClelland will begin the celebration on May 12. For further information or reservations contact SBWIM, 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206 or call (502) 896-4425.

The Steeles will be in concert at Highland Church, Crystal Springs, on Saturday, May 1, at 7 p.m. Steve Walker, minister of music, will also present a mini-concert. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 892-4033 or 847-4375.

Bel Aire Church, Biloxi, has cancelled all Sunday evening services in May and has scheduled "Marvelous Mondays in May." Preachers for the five Mondays are Donald J. Wilton, professor of evangelism and preaching at New Orleans Seminary; Buford G.

Easley, pastor of Williams Boulevard Church, Kenner, La.; Dale Patterson, pastor of East Brent Church, Pensacola, Fla.; John C. Hilbun, pastor of Centerville Church, Laurel; and Fred H. Wolfe, pastor in Alabama, will be the final speaker.

New Zion Church, Copiah Association, exceeded its Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$1,800. A total of \$2,314.42 was given by Easter Sunday. Leroy J. Brewer Jr. is pastor.

The Mississippi College Concert Chorale will present Maurice Durufle's "Requiem" on May 2, at 3 p.m., in Spell Auditorium of Provine Chapel. The Requiem will be presented with an orchestra of strings, brass, timpani, and organ, in the composer's own 1961 orchestration. James Richard Joiner, professor and head of the Department of Music, will be the conductor. The performance is free.

Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, recently collected the largest Annie Armstrong Offering in the church's 90-year history. A goal of \$3,000 was set. An "All the Way in One Day" offering of \$3,055.40 was taken, with the grand total of \$3,080.40.

The gospel group, Southern Cross, will be performing at McCool Church, McCool, on May 2. The concert will begin at 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

Valley Hill Church, Carroll Association, will celebrate its 25th

anniversary and a note burning on May 2, 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Several former pastors will take part in the program.

Greg Buchanan, harpist, will be in concert Sunday, May 2, 7 p.m., at First Church, Kosciusko. Barry C. Corbett is pastor.

Sardis marks 150th year

Sardis Church, Copiah County, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on May 2. Charlie Loflin, former pastor, will bring the message for the morning worship service. Dinner will be served in the fellowship hall. The Revelations from Jackson will have charge of the evening service. The church will be presented a plaque from the Historical Commission, SBC. Joseph McCain is pastor.

Revival Results

Lucien, Brookhaven: April 4-7; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Ted Bowlin, Brookhaven, music; two professions of faith.

Eastside, Pearl: April 4-7; Bruce Gill, Hammond, La., evangelist; Gil Powell, Jackson, music; Dennis Dunn, pastor; 16 professions of faith; two by letter.

Pleasant Ridge, Dumas: April 4-7; Bobby Williamson, Brandon, evangelist; Shane Price, Booneville, music; David Blackwell, pastor; seven professions of faith.

Mission volunteers, construction teams, roofers, and electricians are needed to help build churches in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Montana, Ohio, Kansas, West Virginia, and other states. Teams of 1-30 participants are requested. For more information, call the Brotherhood Department of the MBCB, Paul Harrell, director, at (601) 968-3800

Staff Changes

Fair River, Brookhaven, has called Brian Jemison as minister of music and youth. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary and has served churches in Pensacola, Fla.

C. Robert Marsh, a native of Jackson, has resigned as pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Church in Atlanta, Ga. Declaring he had more dimensions of ministry to explore, the resignation is effective Sept. 15. Marsh was pastor in Florence and Laurel, Miss., and Dothan, Ala., prior to going to Atlanta.

First Church, Indianola, has called Rob Boyd as pastor effective April 1. A native of Meridian, he received his education at University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was minister to youth and college at First Church, El Paso, Texas.



Boyd

First Church, Hattiesburg, has called Rick Carter as minister of music. A native of Alabama, he is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and is scheduled to complete his doctorate in music at the University of Southern Mississippi by December 1993. Carter and his family have recently returned on medical furlough as Southern Baptist missionaries to Argentina where he and his wife Nedra taught in the international seminary. He previously served churches in Houston and Carthage.

Mike Carroll, a native of Columbus, has been called as pastor to Fellowship Church, Vernon, Ala., from Blue Ridge Church, Wetumpka, Ala. He is a graduate of Clarke College and Union University. Carroll served as a missionary journeyman with the Foreign Mission Board in Latin America.

Calvary Church, Columbia, has called J. Robert Toney III as interim pastor effective Jan. 1.

A native of Gloster, he received his education at Mississippi College and is now attending New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Southside Church, Jackson.



Toney

Big Creek, Waynesboro, has called Mack Wayne Carney as pastor effective March 21. A native of Wayne and Jones counties, he received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Beatline Church, Philadelphia.

A.R. Vaughn retired from Homewood Church, Scott Association, effective Jan. 31. He is available for pulpit supply. Contact him at (601) 469-4880 or 716 Line Drive, Forest, MS 39074.

First Church, Lyman, has called Ty Pigott Jr. as pastor effective May 9. He received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Bethany Church, Meridian.

Providence Church, Jayess, has called Michael Ray Alexander as pastor effective April 1. A native of Waltham, he will graduate from New Orleans Seminary in the spring of 1993. His previous place of service was Oak Grove Church, Smithdale.



Alexander

North Calvary, Philadelphia, has called Keith Fulton as pastor effective March 15. A native of Neshoba, he received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was County Line Church.

Hueston Adkins, pastor of Woodville Heights Church, Jackson, recently announced his retirement from active service effective May 31. He has served 31 years in the pastorate in five churches in Mississippi. The church plans a Hueston & Amie Adkins Day on May 16.



Adkins

Homecomings

Carmel, Monticello: May 2; Oliver E. Ladnier, pastor, First, Magee, speaker; afternoon service will feature the Southern Envoys; Robert E. Jones, interim pastor.

Calvary, Bogue Chitto: May 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship; 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds, 12:30 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. singing; Holmes Carlisle, former pastor, speaker; In One Accord, Macedonia, Lincoln County, music; G.W. Smith, interim pastor.

Harmony, Crystal Springs: May 2; Sunday School, 9:50 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Clark Stewart, pastor, speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall following worship service.

Sebastopol, Sebastopol: May 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall, noon; singing and message, 1:30 p.m.; John Sharp and Harold Scott, guest speakers; David Sartin, pastor.

Pearl River Crusade will be held May 2-6, Picayune

The Pearl River Area Crusade, sponsored by the Pearl River Association and the Home Mission Board of the SBC, will be held at the Picayune High School Stadium, May 2-6, at 7 each evening.

Evangelist for the crusade will be Kelly Green of Mobile, Ala. Music evangelists will be Mike and Faye Speck of Owasso, Okla. Also appearing will be Luke Gar-

rett, soloist; Joe Emmett of Morristown, Tenn.; Ronnie Hill of Fort Worth, Texas; and ventriloquist Lee Pitts of Birmingham, Ala.

In case of rain, the crusade will move to First Church, Picayune. For more information, contact the Pearl River Association office in Carriere at (601) 798-2372, or First Church, Poplarville at 795-4531.

Revival Dates

Providence, Cleveland: May 2-5; Jerry Swimmer, Iuka, evangelist; Duke Barnes, Skene Church, Cleveland, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Eugene Walden, pastor.

Sturgis (Oktibbeha): May 2-5; Barry Wilkinson, Baton Rouge, La., evangelist; Joye Patterson, Sturgis, music; 7 p.m. nightly starting Sunday; Steve Lammons, pastor.

Harmony, Louisville: May 2-5; C.C. Burns, Knights Valley, Enterprise, evangelist; Don Wallace, Harmony, Louisville, music; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Discipleship Training, 5:30 p.m.; worship, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jerry Lundy, pastor.

Berwick, Liberty: April 30-May 2; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Michael Mason, Hartselle, Ala., evangelist; Michael and Crystal Mason, special music.

Petal-Harvey, Petal: May 2-

5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7:30 p.m.; J. Garland McKee, director, Evangelism Department, MCB, evangelist; Mickey Henderson, music; Gerald Buckley, pastor.

Old Hebron (Jeff Davis): May 2-7; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and afternoon service; weekday services, 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Kevin Shearer, missionary to Peru, evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, Emmanuel, Hattiesburg, music; Harold G. Wilson, pastor.

Lake Washington First, Glen Allan: May 2-5; Leon Kilbreth, Herrin, Illinois, evangelist; Gerald and Cindy Simmons, Gulfport, music; Sunday, 9:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Jimmy McLendon, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah (Hwy. 9) Eupora: senior adult revival; May 5-8; 6:30 p.m.; Hugh Martin, pastor, Spring Creek, Philadelphia; H.L. Prewitt, music; Adelyne Burris, pianist; Charles McCollum, pastor.

Missionary News

Ray Shelton, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Uruguay, died April 20 in Americus, Ga., after suffering an apparent heart attack April 19. He has been ill with heart disease for several years. Shelton, 73, and his wife, the former Mary McKee of Griffin, Ga., were missionaries in Uruguay for nearly 40 years.

Charles and Celina McKeithen are now in Paris, France,

serving with the International Service Corps of the Foreign Mission Board. Charles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward McKeithen of Eight Mile, Ala., is a graduate of Meridian High School, East Central Junior College, and the University of Houston. Celina is the daughter of the former Lois Sims of Neshoba County. The McKeithens have taken early retirement from business careers in order to provide support for career missionaries and the mission efforts of Southern Baptists throughout the world. While assigned to the Paris office, they will manage the business and finance office for the Federation of French Baptists.



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THE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH in Columbus, Miss., is presently looking for a part time minister of music and youth. Any individual who is interested should mail a resume to: Community Baptist Church, Search Committee Chairman, 2490 Yorkville Road East, Columbus,

MS 39702 or they may call 327-5306 or 328-2105.

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BRANDON/PEARL area church needs childcare workers for services and events. Send information to Cindy Sansing, P.O. Box 1497, Brandon, MS 39042 or telephone (601) 939-6282.

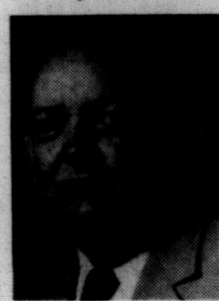
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Names in the News

Jerry Phillip Bowman, a pastor in Dawn, Mo., has completed all the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree and will graduate with honors at International Seminary, Plymouth, Fla., June 25. Bowman is a graduate of Mississippi College and Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. He and his wife, the former Pamela Moffitt of Southaven, have two sons.

Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College and an active Baptist layman, will be honored by the



Nobles

Jackson.

Edward M. Pogue III, a member of Meadowview Church, Starkville, is available for pastorate, interim, supply, and revivals. He received his education at Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. He has pastored churches in Choctaw, Walthall, and Simpson counties. Pogue may be reached at Route 4, Box 334A, Starkville, MS 39759 or call 323-1216.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Ernest White, a professor at Southern Seminary since 1980, died at his home April 17 following a lengthy battle with cancer. White, 63, was the Louisville, Ky., seminary's Gaines S. Dobbins pro-



Good Hope Church, Lena, held Deacon Appreciation Day on March 28. Pictured, from left, are Bobbie Chennault, deacon for 46 years, and wife Pauline; Edward Dowell, seven years, and wife Dale; Carl Fulton, nine years, and wife Doyle; Hugh McDonald, 49 years; and Gwen South, pastor, with wife Martha. Not pictured are Myrtle McDonald and Barney (51 years as deacon) and Cora Lee Jeffcoats.

fessor of church administration and leadership. He also directed the school's Dehoney Center for the Study of the Local Church.

W.B. "Bill" Colter, 92, of Ripley, died April 13 at the Tippah County Hospital. Colter, retiring from the ministry at the age of 87, pastored more than 50 years in Tippah, Benton, and Prentiss counties. He was a member of Palmer Church. Services were held April 15 and burial was in the Palmer Baptist Church cemetery. Survivors include one daughter, Ida Gertrude Miskelley of Ripley; one son, Louis G. Colter of Memphis; two grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Larry Sorah, formerly a Tennessee pastor, is now a member at Colonial Hills Church in Southaven. He is available for supply preaching and interim work. His address is 118 Brandywine,

Southaven, MS 38671 or call 342-4403.

Eva Thomas, blind for most of her life and a long-time church leader from Tallahatchie County, died April 6 in Charleston at the age of 90. In 1938 she became a charter member of New Life Church, Cascilla. Funeral services were held in Charleston April 7.

Dot Pray, keyboard consultant for the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, will be guest clinician for the Allen Church Organ Workshop, Roseberry Piano House, Hattiesburg, May 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Pray, a member of First Church, Jackson, directs a handbell choir, is a member of the sanctuary choir, and serves as an accompanist, organ and piano. For more information on the workshop, call (601) 264-2220 or 1-800-756-2125.

Dockery speaks of need for renewal in worship

HANNIBAL, Mo. (BP) — Southern Baptists "have really gone through a generation without worshipping" because Sunday morning services have become so evangelistic, said David Dockery during a seminar here.

Dockery, dean of Southern Seminary's school of theology in Louisville, Ky., dealt with the subject during the recent Midwest Bible Conference at Hannibal-LaGrange College.

While insisting he is not against evangelism, Dockery said Southern Baptists try to have everything in their services. "And I'm not sure we can have it all."

When services are only evangelistic, a void is left, and that void "saps the life out of the church," he continued.

Dockery said worship is "the act of giving worth or praise to someone." In the church, it is "an offering" given to God "out of recognition of who God is."

Genuine worship also "has a content to it," he continued. "As we sing the songs we must be able to think through what we are singing," and Christians should

learn from and respond to the preaching.

"We are involved.... It is a participation," Dockery said. But many people go absent-minded through a service, not remembering what hymns were sung nor the basic content of the sermon.

"I think there is a need for renewal in our worship," Dockery added, listing "four broad reasons" for the need:

- The current shift toward entertainment in the modern world. People come to church expecting

to be entertained, and "entertainment is no substitute for worship."

- The Enlightenment has created an overemphasis on the rational element. This emphasis has left "no room for an emotional response to God."

- The rise of revivalism. In some sectors, there has been an imbalance in emphasis on unbelievers.

- The general trend toward secularization and the adaptation of that culture. It has reduced the distinction between the church and the culture.

A reminder...

Baptist Record states policies

To submit news, announcements, and stories with pictures, written information must be in the Baptist Record office by noon on Thursday, the week before the desired publication date.

For advertising, deadline for space reservation is two weeks in advance of publication date. All ads must be in the Baptist Record office ten days prior to the issue date in which the ad is to appear. If the ad comes in after deadline, it will be used in the next available issue.

Individuals receiving the Baptist Record through a church subscription plan should direct all requests for changes or cancellations directly to the office of the subscribing church.



Youth Four Part Music Festival

Three \$200 college music scholarships were presented to Mississippi high school seniors during the Keyboard Part of the State Youth Four Part Music Festival, held Feb. 27 at First Church, Clinton. The scholarship is presented by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. L. Graham Smith, director, to seniors who earn superior ratings on adjudication at the state festival, and have received superior ratings on all proficiency requirements at an area festival. The 1993 recipients were: Laurie Earnhart, Jackson; Cory Curvin, Laurel; and Matthew Ware, Petal. Awards in the amount of \$25 each to a Baptist summer music event are presented to all participants who achieve superior in each area of adjudication. Among those receiving that award were (pictured above): Michelle Wright, Petal; Crystal Ingram, Carthage; Karen Austin, Batesville; Cory Curvin, Laurel; Michael Tidwell, Summit; Jayne Griffin, Jackson; Laurie Earnhart, Jackson; and Matthew Ware, Petal. The eligible summer music events are: "HeartSong," Youth Music Conference, Music Leadership at Gulfshore Assembly, Music Leadership at Ridgecrest and Glorieta assemblies. Laurie Earnhart also received a plaque, and Cory Curvin, an honorable mention certificate, for Outstanding Piano Participant. Dot Pray, contract keyboard specialist, Church Music Department, MBCB, coordinates the keyboard part of the annual Youth Four Part Music Festival, open to youths in grades 10-12 who have participated in, and received superior ratings in an area festival.

WMU, From page 3

campaign, Fairfax, Virginia; You Can Make A Difference — Betty Bock, research associate, Center for Urban Affairs, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Biomedical Ethics — C. Ben Mitchell, director, Biomedical and Life Issues, Christian Life Commission, Nashville; Ministry to Abused Women and Children — Beverly Goss, home missionary, Tulsa, Okla.; Loving Neighbors Across Time: A Christian Guide to Protecting the Earth — Robert Parham, executive director, Baptist Center for Ethics, Nashville; Adult Wellness: Caring for Yourself — Kaye Bender, RN, chief of staff, State Health Office, Mississippi Dept. of Health, Jackson, Miss.; Family Violence: When Home Hurts — Lane Powell, chair, Department of Family and Consumer Education, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; I Was in Prison and You Visited Me. Matt. 25:36c — Kathy Stahr Scott, WMU Associate, Jefferson City, Mo.; Drug Awareness for Teens and Those Who Care About Them — Cindy Rice, member, First Church, Laurel, Miss.

2:30 Break

3:00-4:00 ALL ACTIVITIES REPEATED IN SAME LOCATIONS

Monday Evening, June 14

Summoned to Serve

7:00 General Session

Call to Order — Carolyn D. Miller

Call to Worship — Choir and Orchestra, First Church, Houston

Invocation — Joy Fenner, executive director, Texas WMU, Dallas

Hymns

Announcements

Project Mission Hope: "Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted." — Earl Potts, senior project consultant, Montgomery, Ala.; John King, home missionary, Birmingham, Ala.; Will Hodge, home missionary, Birmingham, Ala.

Prayer of Intercession — Ernest Myers, foreign missionary, CSI

Testimony: "...do not forget to do good and to share with others..." missions volunteer

Testimony: "...what counts is a new creation." Mike Rouse, Exodus Ministry, Dallas

Prayer of Intercession — Rebecca Lewis, home missionary, El Paso, Texas

Hymn

Special Music — One Voice, First Church, Houston

Message: "...let us not love with words... but with actions and truth." — William A. Lawson Jr., pastor, Wheeler Avenue Church, Houston

Prayer of Intercession — John King, home missionary, Birmingham, Ala.

Closing Meditation — Fred Wilmer, Choir, First Church, Houston

Gay rights advocates "elated," others critical of D.C. meeting

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — While homosexual leaders expressed elation after their recent, historic meeting in the Oval Office of the White House, opponents of homosexual rights described it as wrong morally and unwise politically.

In the first such meeting a president has had with homosexual leaders, President Bill Clinton reaffirmed his intention to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military and his support for homosexual rights legislation, participants said afterward, according to published reports.

"This is a man who gets it. He gets our issues; he is in there with us," said Torie Osborn, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, according to *The Washington Post*.

"This meeting symbolized the

entry of lesbian and gay people into the mainstream of American life," said Tom Stoddard, executive director of the Campaign for Military Service, a group seeking to end the military ban, "and it is the president of the United States, who, through his moral leadership, permitted that to happen."

Others did not share his perspective.

"Clearly, 'moral leadership' is in the eye of the beholder," said Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission. "Most Southern Baptists would consider facilitating the entry of homosexuals into the mainstream as neither moral nor leadership."

The symbolism also disturbed Land.

"I am distressed that the president of the United States would

use the 'bully pulpit' of his presidential office to extend the kind of semi-official approbation to homosexuality and lesbianism that this meeting provides," he said.

While the Christian Life Commission and other organizations protested when homosexual activists were invited to bill-signing ceremonies with President Bush in 1990 and to a meeting with Bush's campaign chairman in 1992, Land said this meeting "is even worse, since the meeting took place in the Oval Office itself."

The Oval Office normally is reserved for such meetings as those with heads of state, rather than special interest groups, Land said.

Strode is director of media and news information, Washington office, CLC.

Publisher's apology over Madonna book leads to SBC Annual contract

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Following negotiations and an apology from the publisher of Madonna's Sex book, the Executive Committee awarded the printing contract for the 1993 Convention Annual and Book of Reports to R.R. Donnelley and Sons Company.

According to the April 20 announcement by Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president of the Executive Committee, officials of Donnelley, the world's largest printing company, and the SBC signed contracts following "consultation and negotiations."

The contract price was not

announced but the Convention Annual is a large paperback of 40,000-plus copies and the Book of Reports, used primarily at the annual meetings, is 12,000-plus copies. Donnelley printed both for the first time in 1992.

"We understand that your awarding this work to us in no way lessens the outrage you expressed to us over the Madonna book," Donnelley Book Group Vice President Thomas A. Freking said. "You may also be aware that Madonna's publishers know that we will not be involved in any soft cover edition this fall. They understand that we

now know the content of the book and have always avoided such books. We are sorry for any embarrassment or inconvenience this incident has caused you."

The apology played an important part in the Executive Committee's decision to renew the contract with Donnelley.

"The spirit and content of Donnelley's response to our clearly stated objections was such that I felt we could contract for their printing and distribution services this year," Mosley told Baptist Press.

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.

Midwestern Seminary trustees block faculty recommendations

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP) — Trustees of Midwestern Seminary blocked the election of one professor and denied tenure to another during their meeting April 19-20.

Seminary President Milton Ferguson said the actions signal that the conservative-dominated trustee board wants to be more involved in decisions about who teaches at the school. But he warned trustees

the confrontation over faculty tenure could foreshadow "the devastation of this institution."

During the meeting, Ferguson withdrew a recommendation for trustees to elect visiting professor David May to the permanent faculty, saying May's nomination did not have the necessary trustee support.

Later trustees rejected Fergu-

son's recommendation to grant tenure to theology professor Wilburn Stancil and voted to delay action on tenure for another professor. Ferguson will be allowed to resubmit both tenure recommendations at the October board meeting.

Trustees did not say why they objected to hiring May, who teaches New Testament. But a seminary source said trustees were concerned about May's view of the inspiration of the Bible.

"I've always understood myself as a conservative biblical scholar," May, a native of Maryville, Mo., said April 21. "I am disappointed and heartbroken that I am not going to be able to fulfill that calling of God here at Midwestern."

May later said some trustees had found fault with a sermon he preached in seminary chapel on Jesus' parable of the talents. Trustees reportedly questioned May's view of the inspiration of the Bible as expressed in that sermon.

Broadman, Holman merger forms Broadman & Holman Publishers

NASHVILLE (BP) — Broadman Press, Holman Bible Publishers, and Broadman Supplies, long-time publishing imprints of the Baptist Sunday School Board, have merged to form Broadman & Holman Publishers (B&H).

Charles A. Wilson, vice president for trade and retail markets at the board, said B&H "intends to position itself as a viable, competi-

tive publisher, and supplier in the broad, Christian marketplace."

"In view of the BSSB's vision statement, reflective of the Great Commission, our affiliation with Southern Baptists is not a fence that limits our product development and marketing," Wilson continued. "It's a launching pad to reach the world and enhance the likelihood of our success."

Uniform

Pointing others to Christ



By Chuck Pourciau
John 1:19-34

I had ridden around country roads in search of a church for some time when I finally decided that my map was inaccurate. It was about that time that I came upon two farmers working on a tractor in their front yard. I asked them for directions to the church which they readily gave. The directions were not complicated, but, before meeting those farmers, I did not know them. I sure was grateful they were there to point the way. John the Baptist, in one sense, was similar to those two farmers. His purpose was to point the way to Christ. That is the same purpose all Christians have. What can this account teach us about pointing others to Christ?

False identities of John the Baptist (vv. 19-21). The Jews of Jerusalem sent a delegation to John to determine his identity. He denied being the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet. Many Jews expected these figures to appear during the new messianic age. John could have been flattered, but he quickly denied identification with any of these long-awaited figures. John was not attempting to be anyone but himself.

All God wants us to be is ourselves. We do not need to pattern our lives after a particular church leader we may admire. Trying to emulate another Christian will lead only to frustration. God made us like we are to fulfill the ministry he has called us to do. Also, we need to avoid the mistake of expecting other Christians to be just like us. Churches drive people away from the church when they attempt to force them into their own preconceived notions as to what a Christian should be.

The true identity of John the Baptist (vv. 22-23). John the Baptist was not intimidated by the important delegation before him. He unflinchingly declared that he was sent to prepare the way of the Lord. He was not the Christ, but was sent to prepare the way for the Christ.

We all have been sent to perform a similar function, for we all are to prepare the way of the Lord in our world. We are not the answer, but we can prepare the way for the answer. Also, we must not be intimidated by the world, for we stand in the power of the Spirit of God.

There is a special meaning in the word *voice*. John was a mouthpiece for the Lord. In essence, all believers are mouthpieces for the Lord. Our words are his and not ours. All we do is place ourselves at the disposal of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist certainly did.

The humility of John the Baptist. (vv. 24-28). Some Pharisees questioned John the Baptist's authority to baptize since he was not the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet. John was quick to point out that his water baptism was nothing in comparison to the ministry of the one to come. John went so far as to claim unworthiness even to loosen the thongs of his sandals. The great attention received by John did not change his humility before the Lord.

We must never become so impressed with ourselves that we forget that, apart from the grace of God, we are nothing. Any time we become impressed with what we see in the mirror, we need to look into the face of Christ. Humility is an absolute necessity for an effective witness.

John the Baptist's introduction of Jesus (vv. 29-34). John had a tremendous following, but he immediately stepped aside when Jesus appeared. He very explicitly introduced him as the Son of God. His testimony was based on his experience for he said, "I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

It is the task of the Christian to introduce the Lord to a lost world. And the testimony of the Christian is based on the fact that he has seen Jesus. One's witness is not based on intellectual knowledge of Scripture or on years of spiritual maturity. It is based on having seen the Lord.

Also, John did not get in the way of the Lord. It matters not how much respect one may have in the Christian community. He must never cease to point to Christ.

When writing of the two farmers I mentioned that their instructions were not complicated. Yet as simple as they were, I still needed to be told. The gospel is not complicated. Yet as simple as it is, the lost world still must be told. Keep pointing to Jesus.

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book

Judgment and redemption



By Guy A. Hughes
Isaiah 24, 25, 26

According to an old fable, a man made an unusual agreement with Death. He told the grim reaper that he would willingly accompany him when it came time to die, but only on one condition — that Death would send a messenger well in advance to warn him. The agreement was made.

Weeks winged away into months, and months into years. Then one bitter winter evening, as the man sat alone thinking about all his material possessions, Death suddenly entered the room and tapped him on the shoulder. The man was startled and cried out in despair, "You're here so soon and without warning! I thought we had an agreement."

Death replied, "I've more than kept my part. I've sent you many messengers. Look at yourself in the mirror and you'll see some of them." As the man complied, Death whispered, "Notice your hair! Once it was full and black, now it is thin and white. Look at the way you cock your head to listen to my voice because you can't hear very well. Observe how close you must get to the mirror in order to see yourself clearly. Yes, I've sent many messengers through the years. I've kept my part. It's too bad you didn't keep yours. I'm sorry you're not ready for me, but the time has come to leave."

Isaiah 24:5 states, "The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt." God would not tolerate Lucifer's rebellion in heaven and he will not condone man's insurrection on earth. We can deny it all we want but we are on a sure path to the Great White Throne Judgment.

Exaltation for God's restoration of his people (25:1-9). God's awesome judgment should not be a threat to his redeemed people. This will be a time in which he will establish his glorious reign over all the earth. It will be a time of celebration and song. God has done wonderful things for his people. The ruined city mentioned in verse 2 is not identified by name but could refer to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, or Babylon, the capital of the Babylonian empire. The destruction of this city is a parable of the fate that awaits all powers who are hostile to God and his people. The poor and the oppressed will have peace and refuge. The "face of the covering" and the "veil" represents the custom of the women in wearing a veil over their face in times of mourning. The removal of the veil indicates the cause of the sorrow has ended. Verse 8 proclaims "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces;..." Paul also makes this prophecy in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57. The book of Revelation is the great unveiling of God's plan of judgment and redemption. On the great and terrible day of the Lord many will rejoice in his salvation and others will eternally cry out at his judgement.

Praise for security in God (26:1-4). In a world filled with hate crimes, people scamper to buy security systems and burglar bars to secure themselves from the forces of evil. Spiritually, people attempt to secure themselves with false religion, material wealth, fame, alcohol, drugs, and countless other man-made sedatives which lull us into a false sense of assurance. Our salvation is totally dependent upon God. Our efforts to secure ourselves are in vain. Our strength must come from the Lord and we must trust him.

Thomas Lister placed these words on nearly every grandfather clock he made:

*"Lo! Here I stand by thee upright
To give thee warning day and night;
For every tick that I do give
Cuts short the time thou hast to live."*

Are you ready?

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Life and Work

The challenge to witness



By Laura Russell
Acts 4:1-4, 7-12, 31

The Jerusalem church was growing daily through the bold witness of Peter and John. It was not without problems. External opposition resulted in imprisonments, beatings, and death. However, despite the risks involved, these men persisted with their message of the resurrected Christ.

The Sadducees react to the apostles' witness (vv. 1-3). The Sadducees were members of a small but powerful Jewish religious group who not believe in the resurrection of the dead. They were the religious leaders who gained financially by cooperating with the Romans.

Peter and John spoke to the people during the afternoon prayer time. It didn't take long for the Sadducees to investigate. Peter and John were refuting one of their fundamental beliefs and that could threaten their authority as religious teachers. Even under Roman rule, the Sadducees had almost unlimited power around the temple grounds. They were able to arrest Peter and John for no reason other than teaching something contradictory to what the Sadducees believed.

The people respond to the apostles witness (v. 4). The writer of Acts inserts the comment that these events had a great effect upon the people. Many believed, so the number of believers reached 5,000. When the Holy Spirit works there is growth. When people see changed lives and watch God's power at work, they will want to worship him. Those close to you should see Christ at work in your words and actions. What kind of testimony do you give? How do people respond to your witness?

The Sanhedrin questions the apostles (v. 7). The court before which Peter and John were brought was the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the supreme court of the Jews. Even in Roman times it had the right of arrest. Their one desire was to preserve the status quo. They were a most powerful group.

The council asked Peter and John by whose power they had healed the man and by what authority they preached. The actions and words of Peter and John threatened these religious leaders who were more interested in their reputations than in God.

Peter witnesses despite the risk (vv. 8-10). Luke portrays Peter as fearless in his defense. The reason for his courage is clear. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Peter's speech was spoken to the highest court in the land and, in remembering that, it becomes one of the world's greatest demonstrations of courage. Peter, the Galilean fisherman, stands before a powerful, intellectual, and wealthy audience as their judge instead of their victim. Peter knew that he was taking his life in his hands because this was the court that had condemned Jesus to death. Instead of being defensive, the apostles were going on the offensive, boldly speaking out for God and presenting the gospel to the leaders.

Peter declares salvation comes only through Jesus Christ (vv. 11-12). Peter quoted from Psalm 118:22, saying that Christ was the stone which the builders of the Jewish nation rejected, but which God has made the most important stone in the building. Peter also affirmed that the only means of salvation was through the name of Jesus Christ.

Christians are to be open minded on many issues, but not on how we are saved from sin. No other religious teacher could die for our sins; no other religious teacher came to earth as God's only son; no other religious teacher rose from the dead. Our focus should be on Jesus Christ. There is no other way!

The church witnesses boldly in the Spirit's power (v. 31). The Christians did not pray for safety or protection but that, in the face of opposition, they might be faithful in proclaiming God's Word. The response to their prayer was a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit, which was manifested in their bold proclamation of the Word of God.

Not often will sharing the gospel send us to prison as it did Peter and John. Still, we run risks in trying to win others to Christ. We might be willing to face a night in prison if it would bring 5,000 people to Christ, but shouldn't we also be willing to suffer for even one? What do you risk in witnessing?

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